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No 1

Letter from Acting Secretary General of the
United Nations to President Kennedy of the

October 24, 1962

Excellency:

I have been asked by the Permanent Representatives of a large number of member Governments of the United Nations to address an urgent appeal to you in the present critical situation. These representatives feel that in the interest of international peace and security all concerned should refrain from any action which may aggravate the situation and bring with it the risk of war. In their view it is important that time should be given to enable the parties concerned to get together with a view to redolving the present crisis peacefully and normalizing the situation in the Caribbean. This involves on the one hand the voluntary suspension of all arms shipments to Cuba and also the voluntary suspension of the quarantine measures involving the searching of ships bound for Cuba. I believe that such voluntary suspension for a period of two to three weeks will greatly ease the situation and give time to the parties concerned to meet and discuss with a view to finding a peaceful solution of the problem. In this context I shall gladly make myself available to all parties for whatever services I may be able to perform. I urgently appeal to your Excellency to give immediate consideration to this message. I have sent an identical message to the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Soviet Union.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE: A/CDC/LR

U Thant

Acting Secretary General

REVIEWED BY

DATE

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